

Appl. No. : 10/522,624

Response Dated: January 28, 2008

Reply to Office Action of September 28, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 stand rejected. No claims have been amended in the present submission.

Therefore, claims 1-15 are pending and at issue.

As an initial matter, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Bochna for discussing the present application and the rejections stated in the present Office Action during a personal interview at the USPTO on January 23, 2008. The undersigned attorney and Examiner Bochna discussed how the present claims are distinguished from the presently cited art (Davis). The following argument is a brief summary of that discussion and is being presented below in response to the present Office Action.

Claims 1-11 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §.102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Davis. This rejection should be withdrawn as Davis fails to disclose or suggest one or more aspects recited in independent claims 1 and 15.

Specifically, Stranberg fails to disclose or suggest that the outside surface of the sleeve is cylindrical and a collar that is continuously smooth and cylindrical along its entire hose contacting length as recited in independent claims 1 and 15. In contrast, the sleeve disclosed in Davis is more accurately characterized as being conical or wedge shaped. This is best seen in Figures 1 and 5 in Davis where the dashed line helps to illustrate that the surface of the alleged sleeve 11 is not cylindrical, but is instead conical or wedge shaped. This conical or wedge shaped sleeve will cooperate with the alleged collar in Davis to produce areas of localized increased pressure, such as shown in Figure 5 near the tube area labeled "B".

In one form, having the outside surface of the sleeve being cylindrical and the collar being continuously smooth and cylindrical along its entire hose contacting length, as recited in

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claims 1-15, provides that even pressure is applied to the entire hose section. The conical shape found in Davis would lead to stress concentrations that could damage the hose and weaken the connection between the hose and the fitting, possibly ultimately resulting in failure. Therefore, as Davis fails to disclose or suggest one or more features recited in claims 1-11 and 13-15, the rejection should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

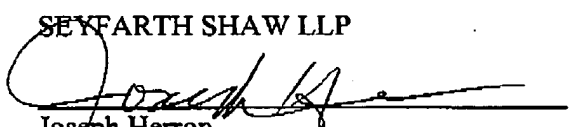
Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Davis. Claim 12 depends from and more specifically recites the structure of independent claim 1. As discussed *supra*, Davis fails to disclose or suggest one or more features recited in independent claim 1. Therefore, as claim 12 depends from independent claim 1, the rejection of dependent claim 12 should be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Response, reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1-15 and allowance of the case. If any fees are due in connection with this application, the Patent Office is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 19-1351. If such withdrawal is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (33025-400700) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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